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Letters To Editor

Dec. 7,1970

Editor, Times-Virginian
Appomattox, Va.

Dear Sir:

We moved from a suburb of Chicago to Virginia because it is such a beautiful state and it is such a joy to walk through the woods and observe the beauties of Nature. That is, it was a joy until just recently when some lazy, slimy slob dumped a load of rubbish in one of the prettier spots.

Even if he is too cheap to spend a few pennies for gasoline to drive to a dump, he could dig a trench in his back yard. There is plenty of space in the yards of all people living outside of town. As rubbish is dumped, it could be extended and then back-filled. Of course, this is too much to expect from such a character.

With people (?) dumping rubbish and littering the highways with beer cans, Virginia will no longer be a beautiful state but just a big trash can.

Sincerely,
Edwin F. Schampel
Rt. 2,Appomattox,Va.

O.W.

Who Won the Color TV?

Who won the color televison set given away by Robert E. Lee Academy? Nancy May in a drawing on Saturday afternoon just outside the Woodmen Building. Choosing the winning ticket was Mrs. W. Dottridge Martin standing with Charles Thomas Moses, Jr. At the right: Kit Carson,Charles Norfleet, Jamie Carson, Roger Norfleet and Mrs. Jesse Osborne. There was another winner, too. The country ham went to . . . Ralph King! The Lee Academy Christmas Bazaar continues on Friday afternoons and Saturdays mornings on Main Street in the Harwood Building. Nancy May is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. H. R. May, Route 1,Appomattox.

DIAL GOOD NEWS
352-7900

Intermediate School Menu

Mon., Dec. 14 – Pork Loaf, Navy Beans, Tomatoes, Rolls, Butter, Milk, Fruit.

Tues., Dec. 15 – Beef & Gravy Whipped Potatoes, Green Beans, Crushed Pineapple, Rolls, Butter, Milk.

Wed., Dec. 16 – Baked Ham, Candied Yams, Green Peas, Rolls, Butter, Milk, Apple Sauce

Thurs., Dec. 17 – Fish Sticks Cole Slaw, Cream Style Corn, Rolls, Butter, Milk, Choc. Cake.

Fri., Dec. 18 – Beef Patties, Boiled Potatoes, Mixed Greens, Prunes, Rolls, Butter, Milk.

The Pastor Speaks

"GIFT OF GOD"
. . . JOHN 4:10

Last week we were studying about Christmas Giving. We studied about God's great gift to humanity; it was a long awaited gift, a loving gift, and it was a lavish gift. Today we see that it was a Lowly Gift. God's example, the proud people rejected the Saviour, the Pharasees rejected the Saviour, but the Bible tells us that the Publicans and the poor (common people) heard Him gladly. In John 5, we find that the Pharasees and the Sadducees sought to kill Him from that time forth. Everywhere He went the rich and the haughty had no time for Him, only scorn and envy, and malice and even a desire to kill Him. God's Son did not come to set the Jew's free physically but He came to set them free spiritually. Matt. 1:21, "Thou shalt call His name Jesus for He shall save His people from their sins;" not kill their enemies but save them from their sins.

Next time we see about this gift from God is, not only was it a Lowly Gift, but it is a Living Gift. It is the bridge that links God back to man. In Isaiah 59:2, "Our sins have separated us from God." And in I Tim. 2:5 the Bible tells us that Christ is the only way in the world back to God. "There is one mediator between God and man, the man Christ Jesus." John 14:6 tells us that Christ is the way, the truth and the life, it is He, Christ that links us back to God.

The next thing we see about this gift of God is its external quality; that is, it is a Lasting Gift. We find first of all the Bible says, He will never die, Rev. 1:8, "I am alive forever more." Another thing, this gift will never depreciate. Hebrews 13:8, 'Jesus Christ the same today, yesterday, and forever.' Next we find this gift will never lose its power, Matt. 28:19,20, "And lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world." Paul said in Romans 1:16, he was not ashamed of the gospel of Christ for it "is the power of God unto Salvation, to everyone who believeth; to the Jew first and also to the Greek". We see here that Salvation, the gift of God doesn't wear out. Secondly, we see that salvation, the Gift of God will not fade, neither will it grow old.

COME AND RECEIVE THE GREATEST GIFT EVER

"Thou didst leave thou throne
and thou kingly crown,
When thou comest to earth for me;
But in Bethlehem's home was there found,
No room for Thy Holy Nativity."

Rev. Earnie Lucas, Pastor
Bible Baptist Church

THE BIBLE SPEAKS

BY LAWRENCE W. ALTHOUSE

GUARANTEED!

Lesson for December 13, 1970

Background Scripture: Matthew 19:16-22; Luke 9:57-62; John 15:12-20; I Peter 3:13-17
Devotional Reading: Hebrews 12: 1-6

Many people have the idea that Christianity is supposed to be a kind of guarantee against most forms of suffering and opposition.

That is hardly the idea that one gets from the New Testament. According to John, for example, Jesus warns his disciples: "If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before you . . . If they persecuted me, they will persecute you" (John 15:18, 20a).

Nor did the passage of time change this alarming prediction, for Peter, years later, was to write: "Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal which comes upon you to prove you, as though something strange were happening to you" (I Peter 4:12). Righteous living, rather than a guarantee of popularity, actually increases the risk of opposition: ". . . keep your conscience clear, so that, when you are abused, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame. For it is better to suffer for doing right . . . than for doing wrong" (I Peter 3: 16, 17).

What Kind Of "Suffering"?

For most of us, these predictions may be hard to understand. Few of us, as far as we can see, have ever had to suffer anything for our faith. Few of us know of anyone in our acquaintance who have had to suffer because of their discipleship. Nor can most of us foresee any reason in the future why we should need to anticipate suffering for our faith.

Perhaps the rub here is the word "suffering." As soon as you read this word you are likely to see in your mind's eye some of the following:

Jesus suffering on the cross . . .
Paul suffering persecution for his mission work . . .
Roman Christians suffering and dying in the arenas of Rome . . .
Reformers suffering torture at the hands of the Inquisition . . .
Missionaries suffering at the hands of uncomprehending savages . . .

All these, however, are pretty remote for most of us – long ago and far away. Or are they?

Paying A Price

"Suffering," so my dictionary tells me, means "to be subjected to pain, distress, injury, loss or anything unpleasant." Thus it can mean physical hardship, but it doesn't have to. Suffering can mean emotional distress or any unpleasantness. Christ's suffering on the cross was far more than physical, terrible as that was.

Therefore, although most of us may not be called upon to bear physical pain for our faith here in America today, isn't it true that if we truly try to follow Christ we will encounter periodic distress, opposition, ridicule, and rejection by others? Isn't it true that Christian discipleship always has some kind of a price?

Christian discipleship carries with it a guarantee, but it is not an escape clause. What is guaranteed is the sustaining power of God in the midst of these. "Therefore, let those who suffer according to God's will do right and entrust their souls to a faithful creator" (I Peter 4:18).

(Based on outlines by the Division of Education, National Council of Churches of Christ in the U.S.A. Released by Religious News Service.)

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